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P.E.N. International

SOVIET WRITERS DENOUNCE P.E.N.

Remarks by Valery Tarsis
and Arthur Miller Assailed

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, July 28—The Union of Soviet Writers denounced P.E.N. International today for having permitted "anti-Soviet and anti-Communist" writers to take the rostrum during the 34th congress of the world literary organization in New York last month.

The Soviet Writers Union said that, although it favored a broadening of contacts with writers abroad, it had lost interest in joining P.E.N. until the organization changes its policies.

David Carver, a Briton who is secretary of the world-wide association, said during a visit here in April that the Russians had been seeking to form a chapter of P.E.N., the initials of which stand for poets, playwrights, editors, essayists and novelists. P.E.N. has 78 chapters in 56 countries with a total membership of 80,000. All Eastern European countries except the Soviet Union and Albania have chapters.

'A Forum for Slander'

The appearance at the New York congress of Valery Tarsis, the Moscow writer who was stripped of Soviet citizenship for anti-Communist remarks after he went abroad last winter, was bitterly criticized by the Union of Soviet Writers in Literaturnaya Gazeta, its literary organ.

"The organizers of the congress considered it possible to present the rostrum of this international forum to the notorious Tarsis, who compensates for his lack of talent with malicious anti-Soviet utterances," the official Soviet writers' group complained. It also expressed indignation that refugee Ukrainian and Estonian writers had used the congress as a forum for "slanderous statements."

The Union of Soviet Writers had planned to send a delegation of observers to the Congress last month, but at the last minute it canceled the trip. At the time, it was believed that the withdrawal stemmed from apprehension in Moscow that embarrassing debates might flare in New York over the imprisonment last winter of Andrei D. Sinyavsky and Yuli M. Daniel, two Soviet writers who published anti-Communist works abroad under the pseudonyms, respectively, Abram Tarkovsky and N. Zhuk.

However, the tone of today's criticisms by the Soviet Writers Union seemed to support European countries except the Soviet Union and Albania have

had refused to attend because of the invitation by P.E.N. to Mr. Tarsis.

'Incompatible With Dignity'

"Soviet writers are developing a broad dialogue with their colleagues abroad," the statement said. "Frequently, they engage in arguments on serious ideological questions, defending their convictions and not hesitating to join in principled polemics."

"But for Soviet writers, 'meetings' with types such as Tarsis or reactionary renegades holds absolutely no interest and, most of all, such meetings are incompatible with the dignity of their organization."

The Union of Soviet Writers declared its resentment at remarks made during the congress by the president of P.E.N. Arthur Miller, the American playwright, that Soviet writers would be welcome to join the organization as soon as they were prepared to conform to its rules, which insist upon freedom of speech and publication.

"Attempts to speak to Soviet writers in such a tone and to confront Soviet writers with one-sided conditions are foolish and fruitless," the Soviet organization asserted.

Soviet Charges Denied

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, July 28 — David Carver, international secretary of P.E.N., described today as "depressing" charges by the Union of Soviet Writers that his organization was hindering contacts between Soviet and non-Communist writers.

Mr. Carver denied the allegation made in the Soviet Writers Union Organ, Literaturnaya Gazeta, that Arthur Miller, the president of P.E.N., had made "stupid, one-sided conditions" for Soviet writers to join the organization.

What Mr. Miller said, Mr. Carver noted was that the trial and the imprisonment of Soviet writers Andrei D. Sinyavsky and Yuli M. Daniel had made it very difficult to go ahead with arrangements to bring Soviet writers into the group.

The P.E.N. secretary said he had written to the secretary of the Soviet Writers Union asking for an explanation of the cancellation of the planned visit of Soviet observers to the P.E.N. meetings in New York. He said the explanation is conditional to his acceptance of an invitation to the 750th anniversary of the Russian writer Alexei Surkov, which is to be observed at Tbilisi in the Republic of Georgia.

Soviet criticism of a statement made by Valery Tarsis before the P.E.N. Congress was unjustified, Mr. Carver said. When Mr. Tarsis made a heated intervention from the floor, he recalled, the chairman had dissociated P.E.N. from his re-